

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 24-27 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claim 15 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Table 1, Fig. 7 and page 31, lines 4-6. Claim 28 is added to recite similar subject matter recited in claim 15, but without "means-plus-function" language.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Tran for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the December 16, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed on, and to return initialed copy of, the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the January 10, 2006 Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-17 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,417,908 to Pitcher, Jr.; rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pitcher in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,193,340 to Kamihara; and rejects claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pitcher in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,462,208 to Hicks et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

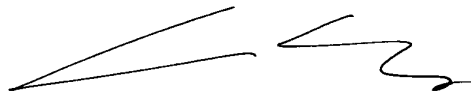
Claim 15 is patentable over the cited references. In particular, as discussed during the personal interview, Pitcher does not disclose or suggest a combination of X and Y that keeps a temperature gradient below 180°C/cm. Kamihara and Hicks do not supply the subject matter lacking in Pitcher. Thus, Pitcher, Kamihara and Hicks, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 15, and claims 16-22 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 is patentable because it recites similar subject matter recited in claim 15, which is patentable as discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 20, 2006

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